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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 098384
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 MCE-00 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 /034 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:DZWEIFEL/BD
APPROVED BY NEA:NVELIOTES
PM:DKEENE
PM/MC:ASUCHINSKI (INFO)
----------058088 181600Z /53
R 180531Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO SECDEF WASHDC 0141

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098384

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR, US, EG

SUBJECT: NORTHROP TARGET DRONE SALE EFFORT

REF: STATE 94052

1. NORTHROP REPRESENTATIVES CALLED ON DEPT. OFFICER APRIL 13 TO DISCUSS COMPANY'S EFFORTS TO SELL RPVS TO GOE. ACCORDING TO KENT KRESA, VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF VENTURA DIVISION OF NORTHROP, EAF EARLIER HAD DECIDED TO RECOMMEND PURCHASE OF "CHUKARS" FOR EGYPTIAN RECONNAISSANCE RPV. COMPANY'S INFORMATION IS THAT SOME HIGER OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (PERHAPS GAMASY HIMSELF), HAD OVERTURNED EAF RECOMMENDATION IN FAVOR OF "FIREBEE". RATIONALEALLEDGEDLY WAS THAT USG COMMITTED TO LATTER. (THIS, OF COURSE, OVERSTATES USG POSITION; IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY, WE USED "FIREBEE" AS REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM, BUT WE CONSISTENTLY HAVE NOTED THAT FINAL CHOICE IS UP TO GOE.)
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2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF REPORTED GOE DELIBERATIONS. HE FURTHER NOTED PROVISION OF MUNITION CONTROL LICENSE AS PER REFTEL, AND OPINED THAT GOE NOW MAY BE REVIEWING ENTIRE ISSUE INCLUDING NEED FOR RECONNAISSANCE RPV. IF FINANCING READILY AVAILABLE, EGYPTIANS WOULD.BUY RPV'S, BUT THIS MAY NOT BE HIGHEST PRIORITY ITEM. IN LATTER

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RESPECT, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT GOE HAS NOT MADE FIN ARRANGEMENTS FOR FINANCING FOR RPV'S.

3. KRESA WILL BE IN CAIRO DURING NEXT WEEK OR TEN DAYS. FYI: NORTHROP IS TAKING LINE THAT MODIFICATION FOR LAND LAUNCH/RECOVERY OF "FIREBEE" IS MORE RADICAL THAN MODIFICATION WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED TO ADAPT "CHUCKAR" FOR RECONNAISSANCE PURPOSES. DEPARTMENT WILL REVIEW THIS CONTENTION AND INFORM EMBASSY AS APPROPRIATE. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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SAS ID: 2930867
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTHROP TARGET DRONE SALE EFFORT
TAGS: MARR, MASS, US, EG
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